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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/816,440	04/01/2004	John Affleck	23407	9252

4859 7590 02/24/2005

MACMILLAN SOBANSKI & TODD, LLC
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TOLEDO, OH 43604-1619

EXAMINER

JOHNSON, VICKY A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3682

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/816,440

Applicant(s)

AFFLECK ET AL.

Examiner

Vicky A. Johnson

Art Unit

3682

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/4/04.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11, 12, and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Felber (CH 346442).

Felber discloses a mounting hub comprising a plastic frustum-shaped body (5) having an upper surface with a first diameter and an opposed lower surface having a second diameter larger than the first diameter (see Fig 2), the upper surface having fastening means (see Fig 2), and a mounting bore (see Fig 2) extending through the body between the upper surface and the lower surface, and the bore having an inner surface (see Fig 2).

Re claims 2 and 12, the fastening means is a plurality of apertures formed in the body at the upper surface (see Fig 2).

Re claim 5, the inner surface has a cylindrical profile with a plurality of radially outwardly extending grooves (see Fig 2).

Re claim 6, including a recess (6) formed in the upper surface (see Fig 2).

Re claims 7 and 16, including an annular recess (10) formed in the lower surface between a central boss and an outer wall of the body (see Fig 2).

Re claim 8 and 17, a plurality of ribs dividing the recess into a plurality of segments (col. 1 lines 20-21).

Re claims 9 and 18, each segment has an associated slot formed in a bottom wall of the recess (see Fig 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3, 4, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Felber (CH 346442) in view of Steffens, Jr. (US 6,457,743).

Felber discloses a hub as described above, but Felber does not disclose the inner surface having a star shaped profile formed by a plurality of v-shaped grooves.

Steffens, Jr. discloses a hub having an inner surface having a star shaped profile formed by a plurality of v-shaped grooves.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the hub of Felber in view of the teachings of Steffens, Jr., to include the star shaped profile in order to prevent relative rotation between the hub and the shaft.

5. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Felber (CH 346442) in view of Plamper (US 4,229,994).

Felber discloses a hub as described above, but Felber does not disclose the hub being made of plastic.

Plamper discloses a hub made from plastic (col. 1 lines 49-56).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the hub of Felber to be made from plastic as taught by Plamper in order to improve the strength of the hub.

6. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Felber (CH 346442) in view of Leston (GB 1236264) and Plamper (US 4,229,994).

Felber discloses a steering wheel (1) having a center disk, a fastener means, and a mounting hub connected to the center disk (3) by said fastener means (8), a plastic frustum-shaped body (5) having an upper surface with a first diameter and an opposed lower surface having a second diameter larger than the first diameter (see Fig 2), a plurality of apertures formed in the body at the upper surface (see Fig 2), a central recess (6) open to the upper surface, and a mounting bore (see Fig 2) extending through the body between the upper surface and the lower surface, and the bore having an inner surface (see Fig 2).

Felber does not disclose the mounting bore being tapered.

Leston discloses the mounting bore being tapered (see Fig 2).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the hub of Felber to include a taper as taught by Leston in order to prevent the hub moving downward on the shaft.

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Felber discloses a hub as described above, but Felber does not disclose the hub being made of plastic.

Plamper discloses a hub made from plastic (col. 1 lines 49-56).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the hub of Felber to be made from plastic as taught by Plamper in order to improve the strength of the hub.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

3-284475	Nagata	(hub)
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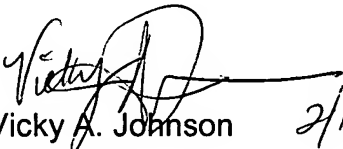
4,721,008	Stoops et al	(hub)
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vicky A. Johnson whose telephone number is (703) 305-3013. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:00a-3:30p).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Bucci can be reached on (703) 308-3668 or (571) 272-7099. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Vicky A. Johnson
Examiner
Art Unit 3682

2/18/10